

Design Standards Letter

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Section/Plan No.: **None**

Subject: **Information on Future Utility Installations on Interstate Route Right-of-Ways**

Body

TO ALL DIVISION, DISTRICT AND URBAN ENGINEERS:

For your information, additional utility crossings of the right-of-ways of Interstate routes are not permitted under present Federal laws without approval of the Bureau of Public Roads. The applicable section of the law states "A State may not add any points of access to, or exit from, projects on the Interstate System *** without the prior approval of the Secretary." The intent of this provision was to control points of access for vehicular traffic, but in its broad sense it controls access to the highway right-of-ways by any type of traffic or by any type of facility, such as a utility. "Additional crossings" applies to all additions to those shown on the plans approved by the Bureau of Public Roads for construction of the project.

Regulations for administering the above provision have been issued by the Bureau and are quoted as follows:

"(a) Sections of Interstate System highway for which completed physical construction projects have been accepted by the Bureau's division engineer since June 29, 1956. A proposal by a State highway department, made subsequent to the acceptance by the Bureau's division engineer of a completed physical construction project, to permit a utility to add a crossing of the Interstate System right-of-way by its facility within the limits of such project is to be submitted to the Washington Office of the Bureau for review and approval action.

"(b) Sections of Interstate System highway for which completed physical construction projects have not been approved by the Bureau's division engineer since June 29, 1956. A proposal by a State highway department made after June 29, 1956, but prior to the time that a physical construction project has been accepted by the Bureau's division engineer, to permit a utility to add a crossing of the Interstate System right-of-way by its facility, is to be submitted to the division office of the Bureau for review and may be approved by the division engineer."

A request or proposal for an added utility crossing when submitted to the Bureau must provide data on the type of utility involved and the manner in which it is to be installed, operated and maintained. All added crossings when approved, shall be located and installed as required by Section I-B of Policy on Location of Utility Facilities on State Highways as established by the Commission on October 14, 1958.

Longitudinal installations of utility facilities on Interstate highways are not covered in the present regulations of the Bureau and are to be handled as provided in the Commission's policy on utility facilities.

The AASHO Committee on Standards is now balloting on a proposed policy on the accommodation of utilities on the National System of Interstate and defense Highways. Until such a policy is finally adopted by the member states of the AASHO and the Bureau of Public Roads, the above requirements of the Bureau are in effect.

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